

The Council of Nicsea

233

'ot one of them/' says Eusebius, *
"was missing and scene was of
great splendour. Detachments of
the lyguard and other troops
surrounded the entrance of palace
with drawn swords and through
their midst the LI of God proceeded
without fear into the
innermost .rtments, in which were
some of the Emperor's own
npanions at table, while others
reclined on couches 1 on either
side."

; gave gifts to each according to his
rank, singling » a few for special
favour. Among these was phnutius.
Socrates says that the Emperor had
en sent for him to the palace and kissed
the vacant * socket of the maimed and
crippled confessor, esius the Novatian
was another, though he stead-refused
to abate one jot or tittle of his old con-
tions. Constantine listened without
offence, as j old man declared his
passionate belief that those
0 after baptism had committed a sin
were un-
rthy to participate in the divine
mysteries, and
rely remarked, with sportive irony, "
Plant a lad-
•, then, Acesius, and climb up to
Heaven alone! " f
\t the closing session the Emperor
delivered a
>rt farewell speech, in which his
theme was again
1 urgent need of unity and
uniformity within the
ristian Church. He implored the
bishops to for-
: and forgive past offences and live in
peace, not
/ying one another's excellencies, but
regarding
5 special merit of each as contributing
to the total
rit of all. They should leave
judgment to God;

t\$ TQY